(XXXII YEAR.) THE (No 1639.)

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1777.

THE AMERICAN CRISIS. NUMBER II.

Concluded from our laſt.

IF ever a nation was mad and fooliſh, blind to its own intereſt and bent on its own deſtruction, it is Britain. There are ſuch things as national ſins, and though the puniſhment of individuals may be reſerved to *another* world, national puniſhment can only be inflicted in *this* world. Britain, as a nation, is in my inmoſt belief the greateſt and moſt ungrateful offender againſt GOD on the face of the whole earth: bleſſed with all the commerce ſhe could wiſh for, and furniſhed by a vaſt extenſion of dominion with the means of civilizing both the eaſtern and weſtern world, ſhe has made no other uſe of both than proudly to idolize her own "thunder," and rip up the bowels of whole countries for what ſhe could get—like Alexander ſhe has made war her ſport, and inflicted miſery for prodigality ſake. The blood of India is not yet repaid, nor the wretchedneſs of Africa yet requited. Of late ſhe has enlarged her liſt of national cruelties by her butcherly deſtruction of the Caraibs of St. Vincents, and in returning an anſwer by the ſword to the meek prayer for "*peace, liberty, and ſafety.*" Theſe are ſerious things; and whatever a fooliſh, tyrant, a debauched court, a trafficing legiſlature, or a blinded people, may think, the national account with Heaven muſt ſome day or other be ſettled: all countries have ſooner or later been called to their reckoning; the proudeſt empires have ſunk when the balance was ſtruck; and Britain, like an individual penitent, muſt undergo her day of ſorrow, and the ſooner it happens to her the better. As I wiſh it over, I wiſh it to come, but withal wiſh that it may be as light as poſſible.

Perhaps your lordſhip has no taſte for ſerious things; by your connections in England I ſhould ſuppoſe not: therefore I ſhall drop this part of the ſubject, and take it up in a line in which you will better underſtand me.

By what means, may I aſk, do you expect to conquer America? If you could not effect it in the ſummer, when our army was leſs than yours, nor in the winter, when we had none, how are you to do it? In point of generalſhip you have been outwitted, and in point of fortitude outdone; your advantages turn out to your loſs, and ſhow us that it is in our power to ruin you by gifts: like a game of draughts, we can move out of *one* ſquare to let you come in, in order that we may afterwards take two or three for one; and as we can always keep a double corner for ourſelves, we can always prevent a total defeat. You cannot be ſo inſenſible as not to ſee that we have two to one the advantage of you, becauſe we conquer by a drawn game, and you loſe by it. Burgoyne might have taught your lordſhip this knowledge; he has been long a ſtudent in the doctrine of chances.

I have no other idea of conquering countries than by ſubduing the armies which defend them: Have you done this, or can you do this? If you have not, it would be civil in you to let your proclamations alone for the preſent; otherwiſe, you will ruin more tories by your grace and favour than you will whigs by your arms.

Were you to obtain poſſeſſion of this city, you would not know what to do with it more than to plunder it. To hold it, in the manner you hold New-York, would be an additional dead weight upon your hands; and if a general conqueſt is your object, you had better be without the city than with it. When you have defeated all our armies, the cities will fall into your hands of themſelves; but to creep into them in the manner you got into Prince own, Trenton, &c. is like robbing an orchard in the night before the fruit be ripe, and running away in the morning. Your experiment in the Jerſeys is ſufficient to teach you that you have ſomething more to do than barely to get into other peoples towns; and your new converts, to whom you promiſed all manner of protection, and reduced into new guilt by pardoning them from their former virtues, muſt begin to have a very contemptible opinion both of your power and your policy. Your authority in the Jerſeys is now reduced to the ſmall circle which your army occupies, and your proclamation is no where elſe ſeen unleſs it be to be laughed at. The mighty ſubduers of the continent are retreated into a nutſhell, and the proud forces of our ſins are ſaved from thoſe they came to puniſh; and all this at a time when they were diſpatching veſſel after veſſel to England with the great news of every day. In ſhort, you have managed your Jerſey expedition ſo very dexterouſly, that the dead only are conquerors, becauſe none will diſpute the ground with them.

In all the wars you have formerly been concerned in, you had only armies to contend with; in this caſe you have both an army and a country to combat with. In former wars, the countries followed the fate of their capitals; Canada fell with Quebec, and Minorca with fort Hahon or St. Philip's; by ſubduing thoſe, the conquerors opened a way into and became maſters of the country: here it is otherwiſe; if you get poſſeſſion of a city here, you are obliged to ſhut yourſelves up in it, and can make no other uſe of it, than to ſpend your country's money in. This is all the advantage you have taken from New-York; and you would draw leſs from Philadelphia, becauſe it requires more force to keep it, and is much farther from the ſea. A pretty figure you and the tories would cut in this city, with a river full of ice and a town full of fire; for the immediate conſequence of your getting here would be, that you would be diſtreſſed one again and the tories be obliged to make good the damages; and this, ſooner or later, will be the fate of New-York.

I will not ſay that the city [illegible] vary as from natural motives. 'Tis the hiding place of women and children, and lord Howe's proper buſineſs is with our armies. When I put all the circumſtances together which ought to be taken, I laugh at your notion of conquering America. Becauſe you lived in a little country, where an army might run over the whole in a few days, and where a ſingle company of ſoldiers might put a multitude to the route, you expected to find it the ſame here. It is plain that you brought over with you all the narrow notions you were bred up with, and imagined that a proclamation in the king's name was to do great things; but Engliſhmen always travel for knowledge, and your lordſhip, I hope, will return, if you return at all, much wiſer than you came.

We may be ſurpriſed by events we did not expect, and in that interval of recollection you may gain ſome temporary advantage. Such was the caſe a few weeks ago, but we ſoon ripen again into reaſon, collect our ſtrength, and while you are preparing for a triumph, we come upon you with a defeat. Such it has been, and ſuch it would be, were you to try it an hundred times over. Were you to garriſon the places you might march over, in order to ſecure their ſubjection, (for remember you can do it by no other means) your army would be like a ſtream of water running to nothing. By the time you reached from New-York to Virginia, you would be reduced to a ſtring of drops, not capable of hanging together; while we, by retreating from ſtate to ſtate, like a river turning back upon itſelf, would acquire ſtrength in the ſame proportion as you loſt it, and in the end be capable of overwhelming you. The country, in the mean time, would ſuffer, but 'tis a day of ſuffering, and we ought to expect it. What we contend for is worthy the affliction we may go through. If we get but bread to eat, and any kind of raiment to put on, we ought not only to be contented, but thankful. More than *that* we ought not to look for, and leſs than *that* Heaven has not yet ſuffered us to want. He that would ſell his birthright for a little *fat*, is as worthleſs as he who ſold it for *porridge* without ſalt. And he that would part with it for a gay coat, or a *plain* coat, ought for ever to be a ſlave in buff. What are ſalt, ſugar and finery, to the ineſtimable bleſſings of "liberty and ſafety?" Or what are the inconveniencies of a few months to the tributary bondage of ages? The meaneſt peaſant in America, bleſſed with theſe ſentiments, is a happy man compared with a New-York tory; he can eat his morſel without repining, and when he has done, can ſweeten it with a repaſt of wholeſome air; he can take his child by the hand and bleſs it, without feeling the conſcious ſhame of neglecting a parent's duty.

In publiſhing theſe remarks I have ſeveral objects in view: On your part they are, to expoſe the folly of your pretended authority as a commiſſioner; the wickedneſs of your cauſe in general; and the impoſſibility of your conquering us at any rate. On the part of the public my meaning is, to ſhew them their true and ſolid intereſt; to encourage them to their own good, to remove the fears and falſities which bad men had ſpread and weak men had encouraged; and to excite in all men a love for union, and a cheerfulneſs for duty.

I ſhall ſubmit one more caſe to you reſpecting your conqueſt of this country, and then proceed to new obſervations:

Suppoſe our armies in every part of the continent were immediately to diſperſe, every man to his home, or where elſe he might be ſafe, and engage to re-aſſemble again on a certain future day, it is clear that you would then have no army to contend with, yet you would be as much at a loſs in that caſe as you are now; you would be afraid to ſend your troops in parties over the continent, either to diſarm, or prevent us from aſſembling, leſt they ſhould not return; and while you kept them together, having no army of ours to diſpute with, you could not call it a conqueſt; you might furniſh out a pompous page in the London Gazette or the New-York paper, but when we returned at the appointed time, you would have the ſame work to do you had at firſt.

It has been the folly of Britain to ſuppoſe herſelf more powerful than ſhe really is, and by that means have arrogated to herſelf a rank in the world ſhe is not entitled to; for more than this century paſt ſhe has not been able to carry on a war without foreign aſſiſtance. In Marlborough's campaigns, and from that day to this, the number of German troops and officers aſſiſting her have been about equal with her own; ten thouſand Heſſians were ſent to England laſt war to protect her from a French invaſion; and ſhe would have cut but a poor figure in her Canadian and Weſt-Indian expeditions, had not America been laviſh both of her money and men to help her along. The only inſtance in which ſhe was engaged ſingly, that I can recollect, was againſt the rebellion in Scotland in forty-five and forty-ſix, and in that, out of three battles, ſhe was twice beaten, till by thus reducing their numbers (as we ſhall yours) and taking a ſupply ſhip that was coming to Scotland with cloaths, arms and money (as we have often done) ſhe was at laſt enabled to defeat them. England was never famous by land; her officers have generally been ſuſpected of cowardice, have more of the air of a dancing-maſter than a ſoldier, and by the ſample we have taken priſoners we begin to give the preference to ourſelves. Her ſtrength of late has laid in her extravagance; but as her finances and her credit are now low, her ſinews in that line begin to fail faſt. As a nation ſhe is the pooreſt in Europe; for were the whole kingdom, and all that is in it, to be put up to ſale like the eſtate of a bankrupt, it would not fetch as much as ſhe owes: Yet this thoughtleſs wretch muſt go to war, and with the avowed deſign too of making us beaſts of burthen, to ſupport her in riot and debauchery, and to add her beſt friends. This ingratitude may ſuit a tory, or the unchriſtian peeviſhneſs of a fallen quaker, but none elſe.

'Tis the unhappy temper of the Engliſh to be pleaſed with any war, right or wrong, be it but ſucceſsful; but they ſoon grow diſcontented with ill fortune, and it is an even chance that they are as clamorous for peace next ſummer as the king and his miniſters were for war laſt winter. In this natural view of things, your lordſhip ſtands in a very ugly critical ſituation. Your whole character is ſtaked upon your laurels; if they wither, you wither with them; if they flouriſh, you cannot live long to look at them; and, at any rate, the black account hereafter is not far off. What lately appeared to us misfortunes, were only bleſſings in diſguiſe; and the ſeeming advantages on your ſide have turned out to our profit. Even our loſs of this city, as far as we can ſee, might be a principal gain to us; the more ſurface you ſpread over, the thinner you will be, and the eaſier wiped away; and our conſolation under that apparent diſaſter would be, that the eſtates of the tories would become ſecurities for the repairs. In ſhort, there is no old ground we can fall upon, but ſome new foundation riſes again to ſupport us. "We have put, Sir, our hands to the plough, and curſed be he that looketh back."

Your king, in his ſpeech to parliament laſt ſpring, declared to them, "That he had no doubt but the great force they had enabled him to ſend to America, would effectually reduce the rebellious colonies." It has not, neither can it; but it has done juſt enough to lay the foundation of its own next year's ruin. You are ſenſible that you left England in a divided diſtracted ſtate of politics, and, by the command you had here, you became a principal prop in the court party; their fortunes reſt on your's; by a ſingle expreſs you can fix their value with the public, and the degree to which their ſpirits ſhall riſe or fall; they are in your hands as ſtock, and you have the ſecret of the alley with you. Thus ſituated and connected, you become the unintentional mechanical inſtrument of your own and their overthrow. The king and his miniſters put conqueſt out of doubt, and the credit of both depended on the proof. To ſupport them in the interim, it was neceſſary you ſhould make the moſt of every thing; and we can tell, by Hugh Gaine's New York paper, what the complexion of the London Gazette is. With ſuch a liſt of victories the nation cannot expect you will aſk new ſupplies; and to confeſs your want of them would give the lie to your triumphs, and impeach the king and his miniſters of treaſonable deception. If you make the neceſſary demand at home, your party ſinks; if you make it not, you ſink yourſelf; to aſk it now is too late, and to aſk it before was too ſoon, and, unleſs it arrive quickly, will be of no uſe. In ſhort, the part you have to act cannot be acted; and I am fully perſuaded that all you have to truſt to is to do the beſt you can with what force you have got, or little more. Though we have greatly excelled you in point of generalſhip and bravery of men, yet, as a people, we have not entered into the full ſoul of enterprize; for I, who know England and the diſpoſition of the people well, am confident that it is eaſier for us to effect a revolution there than you a conqueſt here: A few thouſand men landed in England with the declared deſign of depoſing the preſent king, bringing his miniſters to trial, and ſetting up the duke of Glouceſter in his ſtead, would aſſuredly carry their point, while you were groveling here ignorant of the matter. As I ſend all my papers to England, this, like COMMON SENSE, will find its way there; and though it may put one party on their guard, it will inform the other, and the nation in general, of our deſign to help them.

Thus far, Sir, I have endeavoured to give you a picture of preſent affairs: You may draw from it what concluſions you pleaſe. I wiſh as well to the true proſperity of England as you can, but I conſider independence as America's natural right and intereſt, and never could ſee any real diſſervice it would be to Britain. If an Engliſh merchant receives an order and is paid for it, it ſignifies nothing to him who governs the country.—This is my creed of politics. If I have any where expreſſed myſelf overwarmly, 'tis from a fixt unmoveable hatred I have, and ever had, to cruel men and cruel meaſures. I have likewiſe an averſion to monarchy, as being too debaſing to the dignity of man; but I never troubled others with my notions till very lately, nor ever publiſhed a ſyllable in England in my life. What I write is pure nature, and my pen and my ſoul have ever gone together. My writings I have always given away, reſerving only the expence of printing and paper, and ſometimes not even that. I never courted either fame or intereſt, and my manner of life, to thoſe who know it, will juſtify what I ſay. My ſtudy is to be uſeful, and if your lordſhip love mankind as well as I do, you would, ſeeing you cannot conquer us, caſt about and ſend a hand towards accompliſhing a peace. Our independence, with GOD's bleſſing, we will maintain againſt all the world; but as we wiſh to avoid evil ourſelves, we wiſh not to inflict it on others. I am never over inquiſitive into the ſecrets of the cabinet, but I have ſome notion, that if you neglect the preſent opportunity, that it will not be in our power to make a ſeparate peace with you afterwards; for whatever treaties or alliances we form we ſhall moſt faithfully adhere by; wherefore you may be deceived if you think you can make it with us at any time. A laſting independent peace is my wiſh, end and aim; and to accompliſh that "I pray God the" AMERICANS "may never be deſerted, and I truſt while they have good cauſe, and are well commanded," and willing to be commanded, "that they NEVER WILL."

COMMON SENSE.

LONDON, *October* 21.

The public may be aſſured, that the French conſider a war with England as inevitable, and that the ſame will take place immediately; theſe opinions are ſupported by the following facts:—On Thurſday fortnight an officer of the marine arrived at Boulogne, with an order for the quota of ſeamen furniſhed by that town to repair immediately to Breſt, to man the fleet fitting out there; accordingly 200 were draughted off, and are marched to the place of their deſtination. The ſame orders were forwarded to Calais and Dunkirk.

Friday major Cuyler, aid de camp to general Howe, was at court, took leave of his majeſty, and in a few days will ſet out on his return to New-York.

The ſame day a brother of lord Cathcart was preſented to his majeſty; he is going a volunteer to join the king's troops at New-York, for which place he will ſoon embark.

Oct. 23 Orders are ſent to Scotland for raiſing immediately another regiment of highlanders, which, when complete, are to embark for America. A Scotch nobleman, it is ſaid, has undertaken to raiſe the ſame.

Lord George Germaine has received poſitive intelligence, which he laid before the king, that the American congreſs, before they publiſhed their declaration of independency, received poſitive aſſurances of ſupport from France and Spain, by March or April, 1777; they requeſted it ſooner, but were anſwered it was impoſſible, as the preparations of France were not in ſufficient readineſs.

Orders are iſſued from the privy council for Provincial priſoners (commanders, &c. excepted) to be carried in tranſports to Gibraltar, and when there, the governor will be veſted with a power of granting them their pardon, on condition that they ſerve five years in the company's ſettlements in the Eaſt-Indies; for their paſſage to which, the outward bound Eaſt-Indiamen are to touch at Gibraltar. Thoſe who refuſe theſe conditions, will be brought to England, and tried as rebels.

The Eaſt-India company, it is ſaid, have agreed to allow government five pounds a man for every Provincial priſoner fit to bear arms, that ſhall be delivered on board their ſhips, in the bay of Gibraltar, between this and the 29th of March next, inclusive.

Oct. 26 It is abſolutely certain that ten ſail of the line are immediately to be put into commiſſion.

We are informed that a very great perſonage has wrote a complimentary letter, in his own hand, to the young earl of Winchelſea, who is a volunteer in America. The letter is intruſted to the care of major Cuyler, who has received a preſent from his majeſty, and a promiſe of promotion.

The king has declared repeatedly, that he will perſiſt in the American war, were it to be at the hazard of his crown; and will next ſummer have a force there ſufficient to finiſh the diſpute in one campaign more.—His majeſty is much encouraged by the *bloody junto*.

The report of the diſpute between Spain and Portugal gains ground, and we are informed that two meſſengers came over in the fly boats laſt Monday, to Dover from Calais, with expreſſes from our minister at Madrid to the ſecretary of ſtate's office, the one in 8, the other in 10 days, from that court.

Whether a war between Spain and Portugal is unavoidable, or whatever other cauſe intereſts the miniſtry, it is certain that for the laſt two days they have held long meetings, the reſult of which is kept a profound ſecret.

A congratulatory addreſs from the mayor and commonalty of the city of York, on the late ſlaughter of their American brethren, whom they call rebels, has been preſented to his majeſty, and *moſt graciouſly received*.

Liverpool, Oct. 18. The news of the defeat of the Americans on Long-iſland was received here with univerſal joy on Sunday laſt; the bells rang all day, and on Monday, at 12 o'clock, the company of invalids ſtationed here, fired a feu de joy.

PROVIDENCE, *December* 14.

Saturday morning laſt commodore Sir Peter Parker, with about 70 ſail of men of war and tranſports, came into our bay from New-York, and anchored above the harbour of Newport. On Sunday they landed a body of troops, under the generals Clinton and Percy, who took poſſeſſion of the town, the inhabitants having previouſly determined that the place was not defenſible againſt the enemy's ſhipping. The few troops we had on the iſland retreated to Briſtol, leaving behind them ſome pieces of artillery. By the beſt accounts yet received, the enemy's troops do not conſiſt of more than 5 00 men; among whom are a number of Heſſians, ſome horſe, and many invalids. They are intrenching, it is ſaid, at a place called Meeting-houſe hill, three miles diſtant from Briſtol ferry.

From the firſt appearance of the fleet, the militia and independent companies of this ſtate have been in motion, and are ſince joined by a large body of troops, with ſome companies of artillery, from the neighbouring ſtates.

The readineſs and zeal manifeſted on the occaſion by the troops of this and our ſiſter ſtates, reflect on them the higheſt credit, and we hope will prove a happy preſage of their ſucceſs, ſhould the enemy attempt to gain a lodgment in this town, or penetrate the country.

Jan 4. We learn, that the enemy have ſent a number of women and children from Newport to Narraganſet.

Capt. Dennis, in the privateer Retaliation, arrived off Newport on Friday laſt week, and perceiving more ſhipping in the harbour than uſual, ſent his barge to view them, which was taken by the enemy; two of their ſhips likewiſe got under way, and chaſed the privateer, but ſhe luckily eſcaped, and is ſince arrived at a ſafe port.

NORWICH *(Connecticut) Dec.* 2.

The general aſſembly of this ſtate, at their laſt ſeſſion, fixed the following prices, viz. labour in the ſummer not to exceed 3s. per day; wheat 6s. per buſhel; rye 3s. 6d. Indian corn 3s. wool 2s. per pound; flax 10d. pork from five to ſeven ſcore 3d. 1q. from ſeven to ten 3d. 2q. from ten and upwards 3d. 3q. grais-fed beef not to exceed 24s. per hundred, ſo in proportion according to its quality; raw hides 3d. per lb. ſalt 10s. per buſhel; Weſt-India rum 6s. per gallon, per hogſhead; beſt muſcovado ſugar 60s. per hundred; New-England rum 3s. 6d. per gallon, per hogſhead; moliaſſes 2s. per gallon, per hogſhead; tea 4s. 6d. per pound; butter 10d. cheeſe 6d.

BALTIMORE, *February* 4.

Extract of a letter from GENERAL WASHINGTON *to* CONGRESS, *dated January* 22, 1777.

"My laſt was on the 20th inſtant; ſince that, I have the pleaſure to inform you, that general Dickinſon, with about four hundred militia, has defeated a foraging party of the enemy of an equal number, and has taken forty waggons, and upwards of an hundred horſes, moſt of them of the Engliſh draft breed, and a number of ſheep and cattle which they had collected.

"The enemy retreated with ſo much precipitation, that general Dickinſon had only an opportunity of making nine priſoners; they were obſerved to carry off a good many dead and wounded in light waggons.

"This action happened near Somerſet court-houſe, on Millſtone river. General Dickinſon's behaviour reflects the higheſt honour upon him; for, though his troops were all raw, he led them through the river, middle deep, and gave the enemy ſo ſevere a charge, that, although ſupported by three field pieces, they gave way, and left their convoy.

"I have not heard from general Heath, ſince the firing near Kingſbridge laſt Saturday, which I cannot account for, unleſs the North river ſhould have been rendered impaſſable by the ice. But the account of his having ſurpriſed and taken fort Independence on Friday laſt, comes ſo well authenticated, by different ways, that I cannot doubt it. It is ſaid, that he took four hundred priſoners in that fort; and that he inveſted fort Waſhington on Saturday, which occaſioned the firing."

Publiſhed by order of Congreſs,
CHARLES THOMSON, ſecretary.

Extract of a letter from an officer, who arrived at Philadelphia, from the army in Jerſey, on Saturday laſt, dated the ſame day.

"We have certain accounts of fort Independence, near Kingſbridge, being taken, with 400 priſoners, amongſt whom are a number of Pennſylvania *gentlemen* tories.—Fort Waſhington was attacked laſt Saturday, and the firing ceaſed at 11 o'clock, it is therefore ſuppoſed to be taken. We hourly expect to hear that New-York is again in the poſſeſſion of our victorious troops. We have taken waggons, horſes and men, in ſeveral ſkirmiſhes this week, at and about Somerſet court-houſe."

This day capt. Henry Johnſon, late of the Yankey privateer, who eſcaped from a Britiſh man of war lying at the Nore, arrived here from France. We hear he brings very pleaſing accounts of the friendly diſpoſition of the French court and nation, towards the American cauſe.

February 4. Juſt as this paper was going to preſs, very important intelligence is ſaid to be arrived of 8000 New-England troops having landed on Long-Iſland, and marched as far weſtward as the town of Brooklyn, within two miles of the city of New-York, driving the enemy, particularly Tryon and De Lancey's traitors, like chaff before the wind.—Alſo that gen. Heath, with another body of New-England and New-York troops, had retaken Fort Waſhington, and regained all York-Iſland from Kingſbridge down as far as Bayard's-Hill, within half a mile of the city, which is now ſuppoſed to be poſſeſſed by our brave countrymen.—Whenever a confirmation and particulars arrive, we ſhall, as ſoon as poſſible, obtain them for our readers.

By his Excellency GEORGE WASHINGTON, Eſq; General and Commander in Chief of all the forces of the United States of America.

A PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS ſeveral perſons, inhabitants of the United States of America, influenced by inimical motives, intimidated by the threats of the enemy, or deluded by a proclamation iſſued the 30th of November laſt, by lord and general Howe, ſtiled the king's commiſſioners for granting pardons, &c. (now at open war and invading theſe ſtates) have been ſo loſt to the intereſt and welfare of their country, as to repair to the enemy, ſign a declaration of fidelity, and, in ſome inſtances, have been compelled to take the oaths of allegiance, and to engage not to take up arms, or encourage others ſo to do, againſt the king of Great-Britain. And whereas it has become neceſſary to diſtinguiſh between the friends of America and thoſe of Great-Britain, inhabitants of theſe ſtates, and that every man who receives a protection from and is a ſubject of any ſtate (not being conſcientiouſly ſcrupulous againſt bearing arms) ſhould ſtand ready to defend the ſame againſt every hoſtile invaſion, I do therefore, in behalf of the United States, by virtue of the powers committed to me by Congreſs, hereby ſtrictly command and require every perſon, having ſubſcribed ſuch declaration, taken ſuch oaths, and accepted protection and certificates from lord or general Howe, or any perſon acting under their authority, forthwith to repair to head-quarters, or to the quarters of the neareſt general officer of the continental army or militia (until further proviſion can be made by the civil authority) and there deliver up ſuch protections, certificates, and paſſports, and take the oath of allegiance to the United States of America. Nevertheleſs, hereby granting full liberty to all ſuch as prefer the intereſt and protection of Great-Britain to the freedom and happineſs of their country, forthwith to withdraw themſelves and families within the enemy's lines. And I do hereby declare, that all and every perſon, who may neglect or refuſe to comply with this order, within thirty days from the date hereof, will be deemed adherents to the king of Great-Britain, and treated as common enemies of the American States.

Given at Head-Quarters, Morris-town, Jan. 25, 1777.
GEORGE WASHINGTON.

By his Excellency's command,
ROBERT H. HARRISON, *ſecretary.*

ANNAPOLIS, *February* 4.

The General Aſſembly of this ſtate was to have met here on the 29th ult. but a ſufficient number of members not attending, it was adjourned from day to day till Wedneſday the 5th of this inſtant, when the ſame met; the hon. Daniel of st. Thomas Jenifer, Eſq; was choſen preſident of the ſenate, and the hon. Thomas Sprigg Wootton, Eſq; ſpeaker of the houſe of delegates.

The SPEECH of George the Third, king of Great-Britain, to his parliament, October 31, 1776.

My lords and gentlemen,

NOTHING could have afforded me ſo much ſatisfaction as to have been able to inform you, at the opening of this ſeſſion, that the troubles which have ſo long diſtracted my colonies in North America were at an end, and that my unhappy people, recovered from their deluſions, had delivered themſelves from the oppreſſions of their leaders and returned to their duty—but ſo daring and deſperate is the ſpirit of their leaders, whoſe object has always been dominion and power, that they have now openly renounced all allegiance to the crown and political connections with this country—they have rejected, with circumſtances of indignity and inſult, the means of conciliation held out to them under the authority of our commiſſion, and have preſumed to ſet up their rebellious confederacies for independent ſtates. If their treaſon be ſuffered to take root, much miſchief muſt grow from it to the ſafety of my loyal colonies, to the commerce of my kingdoms, and indeed to the preſent ſyſtem of all Europe. One great advantage, however, will be derived from the object of the rebels being openly avowed and clearly underſtood; we ſhall have unanimity at home, founded on the general conviction of the juſtice and neceſſity of our meaſures. I am happy to inform you, that by the bleſſings of divine Providence on the good conduct and valour of my officers and forces by ſea and land, and the zeal and bravery of the auxiliary troops in my ſervice, Canada is recovered—and although from unavoidable delays the operations at New York could not begin before the month of Auguſt, the ſucceſs in that province has been ſo important as to give the ſtrongeſt hopes of the moſt deciſive good conſequences. But notwithſtanding the fair proſpect we muſt at all events prepare for another campaign. I continue to receive aſſurances of amity from the ſeveral courts of Europe, and am uſing my utmoſt endeavours to conciliate the unhappy differences between two neighbouring powers, and ſtill hope that all miſunderſtandings may be removed, and Europe to continue to enjoy the ineſtimable bleſſings of peace. I think, nevertheleſs, in the preſent ſituation of affairs, it is expedient we ſhould be in a reſpectable ſtate of defence at home.

Gentlemen of the houſe of commons,

I will order the eſtimates for the enſuing year to be laid before you—it is matter of real concern to me, that the important conſiderations which I have ſtated to you muſt neceſſarily be followed by great expence; I doubt not, however, but that my faithful commons will readily and cheerfully grant me ſuch ſupply as the maintenance of the honour of my crown, in vindication of the juſt rights of parliament and the public welfare, ſhall be found to require.

My lords and gentlemen,

In this arduous conteſt I can have no other object but to promote the true intereſt of all my ſubjects. No people ever enjoyed more happineſs, or lived under a milder government, than thoſe now revolted provinces; the improvements in every art of which they boaſt declare it; their numbers, their wealth, their ſtrength by ſea and land, which they think ſufficient to enable them to make head againſt the whole power of the mother country, are irrefragable proofs of it; my deſire is to reſtore to them the bleſſings of law and liberty, equally enjoyed by every Britiſh ſubject, which they have totally and deſperately exchanged for all the calamities of war and the arbitrary tyranny of their chiefs.

*** *This Gazette, Number* 1639, *completes the year with all ſubſcribers to it; and the Printer hopes his cuſtomers will enable him to continue the publication thereof, by ſpeedily paying off their reſpective accounts. Paper and all other materials neceſſary for carrying on the buſineſs, are exceedingly dear, and not to be purchaſed but only for the* READY MONEY.

Alexandria, Jan. 29, 1777.

To be ſold, at public ſale, on Thurſday the 13th day of February, at this place,

THE ſchooner ANNE MARIA, about 2[illegible] burthen, well found, and fitted with ſails, rigg[illegible] and all other neceſſaries for ſuch a veſſel.---Her hull is ſound and good, and the veſſel a faſt ſailer.---At the ſame time and place there will alſo be her cargo expoſed to ſale, conſiſting of ſalt, checquered and white linens, oſnabrigs, ſail-cloth, ſhe tings, dowlas, holland, chintz and ſtamped cottons---All for ready cash.

JENIFER and HOOE.

To be ſold at public vendue, for ready money only, on Thurſday the 27th of February, if fair, if not the next fair day, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon, at the plantation of James Wallingsford, late deceaſed,

THREE or four valuable negroes, cattle, horſes, hogs, and houſhold furniture, ſuch as feather beds, and many other articles too tedious to mention.

W. MACCUBBIN
JAMES WALLINGSFORD } Adminiſtrators.

All perſons indebted to the eſtate of James Wallingsford, deceaſed, are deſired to make ſpeedy payment; and all perſons having any claim againſt the eſtate are deſired to bring in their accounts regularly proved, and ſigned by the commiſſary, and they ſhall be diſcharged.

W. M.---J. W.

ANNAPOLIS: Printed by FREDERICK GREEN.